

2017 Traffic Calming Results

The City of Newton DPW has completed its 2017 review of traffic calming requests. The City receives traffic calming requests from constituents and/or Councilors via email or WebQA/311. Requests ask the City to address speed or safety concerns, typically on neighborhood streets.

METHODOLOGY – The City’s employs the following data-driven methodology for reviewing requests:

1. Receive Request - Traffic Engineer receives request via email, phone or online and reviews specific concerns.
2. Data Collection– Traffic Engineer sets-up radar recorder on-site for 48 hours to collect speed and vehicle volume data; police crash reports are pulled for previous 2 years to get count of reported crashes; proximity to pedestrian generators such as schools, village centers, transit stops and parks are recorded.
3. Data Analysis – Traffic Engineer inputs data into its traffic calming algorithm which assigns a score to each request based on the data. The maximum score possible is 100 points, with a high score indicative of a need for traffic calming interventions. Streets with a history of crashes, recorded speeds above the speed limit, high daily vehicle volumes, or near locations with a large number of pedestrians earn higher scores.
4. Prioritization – Traffic Engineer ranks all requests based on points earned, along with determining need for immediate action if data reveals a concern (i.e. extremely high vehicle crash rate).
5. Improvements – The Department of Public Works will be focusing on implementing improvements on those streets which ranked highest.

TECHNIQUES – The City will employ the following traffic calming techniques as part of this process.

1. Increased enforcement
2. Signage
3. Mobile speed feedback display signs
4. Permanent feedback display signs
5. New or improved pavement markings
6. Improvements to road geometry either through permanent changes to curbs, or using more tactile techniques such as paint, textured surfaces, flexible posts, etc.

RESULTS – Based on the analysis, the City will implement traffic calming on the following top-ranked roads. Full results are attached.

Score	Study Location
87	Lowell Ave (at Highland Ave)
72	Hammond St
68	Elliot St
68	Lowell Ave (at Hull St)
67	Waltham St (at Derby St)
61	Langley Rd
60	Waverly Ave
57	Auburn St
56	Allen Ave
56	Beethoven Ave
45	Watertown Street (Watertown Street was not rated in the top 10, but has been elevated due to crash history)

2018 STUDY - We will be conducting a second round of studies in 2018 to review new requests.

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